WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An encoder apparatus comprising:

a video processor for encoding a video sequence;

a graphics processor for producing a plurality of encoded graphics slices;

means, coupled to said video processor and said graphics processor, for selectively producing for transmission a bitstream comprising said encoded video, associated encoded audio, and said encoded graphics slices; and

a controller, coupled to said video processor and said graphics processor, for selecting the graphics slices to be included in said bitstream and for adjusting the slice boundaries.

2. The encoder apparatus of claim 1 wherein said video processor comprises a video encoder and an audio encoder.

3. The encoder apparatus of claim 1 wherein said graphics processor comprises a database for storing said graphics slices.

4. The encoder apparatus of claim 1 wherein said video is a video portion of an interactive program guide and said encoded graphics slices represent a plurality of guide portions for said interactive program guide.

5. Apparatus for distributing an interactive program guide comprising:

an encoder, for encoding at least one video sequence having associated audio as an encoded audio and video portion, and guide graphics as an encoded guide graphics portion, said encoder comprising an audio encoder, a video processor and a graphics processor, wherein said video processor comprises a compositor unit for receiving video

information and an encoder unit coupled to said compositor unit;

at least one modem, for transmitting said encoded video and guide graphics portions through a head end channel;

local neighborhood equipment, coupled to said head end channel, for selecting said encoded video portion and said encoded guide graphics portion and producing a transport stream comprising said encoded video portion and said encoded guide graphics portion;

a network, for carrying said transport stream to at least one receiver; and

at least one receiver, coupled to said network, for processing said transport stream to form an interactive program guide.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said graphics processor comprises:

a guide data grid generator for receiving guide information;

a guide encoder coupled to said guide data grid generator; and

a slice form grid page database coupled to said guide encoder.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said encoder produces a plurality of encoded video portions and a plurality of encoded guide graphics portions that are made available to said local neighborhood equipment.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said local neighborhood equipment further comprises:

a modem;

a slice combiner;

a multiplexer; and

modulator.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said video processing comprises

a compositor unit; and

an encoder unit.

10. Apparatus for distributing an interactive program guide (IPG) comprising:

an encoder assembly having a video processor for encoding at least one video sequence of said IPG and audio associated with said video sequence as an encoded video and audio portion, and a graphics processor for encoding guide graphics of said IPG as an encoded guide graphics portion;

means for selecting said encoded video and audio portion and said encoded guide graphics portion, and producing a transport stream comprising said encoded video and audio portion and said encoded guide graphics portion;

a network for carrying said transport stream to at least one receiver; and

at least one receiver, coupled to said network, for processing said transport stream to form an interactive program guide;

wherein said graphics processor comprises:

a guide data grid generator;

a guide encoder; and

a slice form grid page database.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said encoder assembly produces a plurality of encoded video and audio portions and a plurality of encoded guide graphics portions that are made available to said local neighborhood equipment.